

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12 and 14-20 are presenting pending in this application.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,400,722) in view of Noguchi, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 7,075,908; hereinafter "Noguchi"). Claims 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah and Noguchi in view of Akhtar, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,769,000). Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah and Noguchi in view of Amos (U.S. Patent No. 6,554,184).

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these rejections. Applicant files herewith a verified English-language translation of the Japanese priority document. Each of the claims is respectfully submitted to be fully supported by the Japanese priority document. The filing of the English-language translation perfects Applicant's claim to benefit from the foreign priority date of December 6, 2000, with respect to all of Applicant's claims.

In view thereof, and since the earliest effective date of the Noguchi patent as a reference is the U.S. filing date of September 24, 2001 (which is later than December 6, 2000), Noguchi is removed as a reference. This rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12 and 14-20 is based on Noguchi. Since Noguchi is not a prior art reference, the rejection is thus literally moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Noguchi.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/987,517

ART UNIT 2157
Q67254

In view of the preceding remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any points remaining in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (with the exception of the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

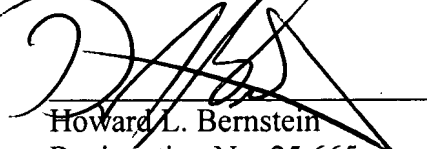
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,



Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

Date: April 12, 2007